

# *Proclamation*

## *by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin*

- Whereas,** West Virginia currently has three official state songs as designated by House Concurrent Resolution 19, adopted February 28, 1963, including "This is My West Virginia," "The West Virginia Hills," and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home;" and
- Whereas,** "Take Me Home Country Road" has a pleasing and memorable tune and the lyrics are an apt poetic description of our landscape and heritage; and
- Whereas,** "Take Me Home Country Roads" was written in 1970 by John Denver, Taffy Nivert and Bill Danoff and was released in 1971, was included on John Denver's breakout album "Poems, Prayers and Promises" and reached #2 as a single on the United States Billboard Hot 100 chart; and
- Whereas,** "Take Me Home Country Roads" has remained a popular and often repeated song for the last 40 years with words and a tune well known nationwide and easily sung by most West Virginians living both in and out of our state; and
- Whereas,** "Take Me Home Country Roads" is performed regularly at most important events within our state, including the memorial service for Senator Robert C. Byrd, the dedication ceremony for Mountaineer Field and the pre-game and post-game ceremonies at athletic events at West Virginia University; and
- Whereas,** the lyrics are often quoted by popular celebrities and political figures, such as former Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when referring to our state; and
- Whereas,** the song has been covered by artists from Ray Charles to Olivia Newton-John to the Hermes House Band to the Black Tartan Clan; and
- Whereas,** the song has been an international hit, even being one of the most popular tunes played at Munich's Oktoberfest; and
- Whereas,** it has appeared in award winning films such as the Japanese hit "Whispers in the Heart;" and
- Whereas,** it has given positive images of West Virginia to an audience that would never otherwise have been found.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, in keeping with House Concurrent Resolution 40 passed during the 2014 Regular Session, do hereby recognize the song:

### *Take Me Home Country Roads*

as written by John Denver, Taffy Nivert and Bill Canoff as an official state song.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-First year of the State.



*Earl Ray Tomblin*  
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Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

*Natalie E. Tennant*  
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Natalie E. Tennant  
Secretary of State